

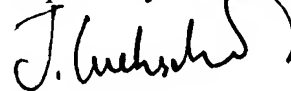
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REMARKS

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 3 was canceled.

Claim 2 was amended as follows:

2. A polypeptide [according to (a) or (b) shown below]selected from the group of:

(a) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group of SEQ ID NOs: 5 to 8, 10, 12, 13, 21 to 24, 26 to 29, 32, 33, 37 to 40, 46, 48, 54, and 60;and,

(b) a polypeptide that suppresses neuronal death associated with Alzheimer's disease having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 to 8, 10, 12, 13, 21 to 24, 26 to 29, 32, 33, 37 to 40, 46, 48, 54, and 60, wherein one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted, inserted, and/or added.

Claim 4 was amended as follows:

4. A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of any of claims 1 to 2 fused with one or more other polypeptides.

Claim 5 was amended as follows:

5. A DNA encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [4] 2, or a fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of any of claims 1 to 2 fused with one or more other polypeptides.

Claim 8 was amended as follows:

8. A method for producing the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [4] 2, comprising the steps of culturing [the] a host cell [of claim 7]retaining a vector into which a DNA encoding any one of claims 1 to 2, or a fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of any of claims 1 to 2 fused with one or more other polypeptides, is inserted, and recovering the expressed polypeptide from the host cell or culture supernatant thereof.

Claim 9 was amended as follows:

9. A method for suppressing neuronal death comprising the step of contacting a neuron with the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [4] 2.

Claim 10 was amended as follows:

10. A method for detecting a cell death suppressing activity of the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [4] 2, comprising the steps of:

(a) inducing cell death in the presence of the polypeptide [of any one of claims 1 to 4], [and]

(b) detecting level of cell death; and,

(c) comparing the level detected in step (b) with that occurring in the absence of the polypeptide.

Claim 11 was amended as follows:

11. A method for detecting the effect of a chemical compound on neuronal death suppressing activity of a polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [4] 2, comprising the steps of:

(a) inducing neuronal death in the presence of a test compound and the polypeptide [of any one of claims 1 to 4];[and]

(b) detecting the level of neuronal death; and,
(c) comparing the level detected in step (b) with that occurring in
the absence of the compound.

Claim 12 was amended as follows:

12. A method of screening for a chemical compound that regulates the neuronal death suppressing activity of the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [4] 2, comprising the steps of:

(a) inducing neuronal death in the presence of a test
[sample]compound and the polypeptide [of any one of claims 1 to 4],
(b) detecting the level of neuronal death, [and]
(c) comparing the level detected in step (b) with that occurring in
the absence of the compound; and,
[(c)](d) selecting the compound that enhances or suppresses
neuronal death.

Claim 13 was amended as follows:

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as the effective component the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [4] 2 or a vector into which a DNA encoding the polypeptide is inserted.

Claim 14 was amended as follows:

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein said composition [is a] acts as a neuronal death suppressant.

Claim 15 was amended as follows:

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15. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, [which is used to]comprising an amount of the polypeptide or the vector effective to prevent or treat diseases that are accompanied by neurodegeneration.

Claim 16 was amended as follows:

16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, [which is used to]comprising an amount of the polypeptide or the vector effective to prevent or treat Alzheimer's disease.

Claim 17 was amended as follows:

17. An antibody that binds to the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [3]2.

Claim 18 was amended as follows:

18. A DNA for detecting or manipulating DNA encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [4]2, wherein the DNA comprises at least 15 nucleotides that are complementary to a DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or to a complementary strand thereof.

Claim 19 was amended as follows:

19. A method of screening for a chemical compound that binds to the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to [4]2, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a test [sample]compound with the polypeptide [of any one of claims 1 to 4],

(b) detecting the binding activity between the test [sample]compound and the polypeptide, and,

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(c) selecting the compound that has the activity to bind to the polypeptide.

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